Dubbo Public School
Annual School Report

2012
Principal’s message

At Dubbo Public School we believe improved learning outcomes are everyone’s business. Improved learning outcomes are achieved through a three way partnership with your child and their teacher based on shared responsibilities, positive relationships, effective communication and mutual respect. In 2012 our greatest achievements have been:

- Our Literacy, Language and Learning program –L3, which has been extremely successful in improving reading and writing standards
- Technology which is intertwined in our learning programs with the addition of banks of computers and IPads to classrooms
- Our school band, choirs, recorder groups, percussion ensemble and dance groups all represented us with considerable success in the City of Dubbo Eisteddfod.
- Our recorder group who represented Dubbo Public School in the Schools Festival of Instrumental Music at the Sydney Opera House
- Members of our dance group who represented Dubbo Public at the recent Schools Spectacular
- Our school concert with every class performing to the enjoyment of a packed tiered theatre.

I would like to thank our students for their friendship, cooperation and respect, staff members for the their hard work and dedication in supporting our students and our parents who are so positive and supportive.

I certify that the information in this report is the result of a rigorous school self-evaluation process and is a balanced and genuine account of the school’s achievements and areas for development.

Greg Shortis
Principal

P & C Message

The P&C has met on a regular basis and discussed issues regarding teaching and learning, the welfare of our children and the interaction of the school in the wider community. It has been a pleasure to work so closely with our school Principal Greg Shortis as he values and respects the input of the P&C.

The P&C has also continued to be active in fundraising and coordinating the catering at many school events, including:
- Easter barbecue and raffle
- Mother’s Day and Father’s Day stalls
- Cross country lunch
- Athletics carnival canteen
- Pie drive
- Plate fundraiser
- Christmas raffle
- Kindergarten parents lunch

All of these events and the ongoing support and generosity of our school community has enabled us to donate $2000 to the school to contribute towards improving technology in the classroom.

In 2012 many of the resources and energy of the P&C have been directed towards the running of our school canteen. The P&C is now in a position to spend $3000 on replacing an oven and upright freezer to improve the equipment in the canteen.

I would like to personally thank the executive of the P&C. This team together with the other members of the P&C and of course, the broader parent body of the school enables us to set the example to our children that it is important to work together and be proud of our school and aspire to make it a better place.

Rachael Sinclair
P& C President
Student Representatives’ Message

Students of Dubbo Public School have enjoyed many creative, exciting and academic events in 2012. It has been exciting taking on the additional responsibilities that go with being school leaders. These included supporting the younger students through the Peer Support and Kinder Buddy programs and making sure all visitors were made feel welcome.

This year we organised two discos. They were themed Pyjamas and Casual. Some of the funds raised helped support the School Spectacular students on their trip to Sydney.

The end of year presentation is something we will all treasure with the school recognising our many achievements and contributions to the school. The Year 6 farewell was also a special evening when we came together for a final evening of celebrations and reflection. It was wonderful to share this evening with our friends, family and the staff of Dubbo Public School.

We have enjoyed our final year at Dubbo Public School. We will continue to be safe, respectful learners as we move into secondary education. We would like to thank the teachers and staff of Dubbo Public School for their support and guidance as we have journeyed from Kindergarten through Primary School.

School Context

Student information

Student enrolment profile

Dubbo Public School has a total enrolment of 438 students, an increase of 10.3% from 2011.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>2007</th>
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<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>211</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>198</td>
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Student attendance profile

Dubbo Public School has an attendance rate of 93.7%. Our attendance in 2012 was in line with the State and Regional DEC attendance rates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
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<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>96.3</td>
<td>96.5</td>
<td>95.7</td>
<td>95.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>95.1</td>
<td>94.8</td>
<td>95.5</td>
<td>94.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>94.2</td>
<td>96.3</td>
<td>93.9</td>
<td>93.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>94.8</td>
<td>96.1</td>
<td>94.7</td>
<td>92.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>92.8</td>
<td>95.2</td>
<td>93.7</td>
<td>93.9</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>93.7</td>
<td>94.4</td>
<td>93.4</td>
<td>94.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>92.7</td>
<td>95.4</td>
<td>92.8</td>
<td>91.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>92.9</td>
<td>94.2</td>
<td>95.5</td>
<td>94.2</td>
<td>93.7</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Staff Information

Staff establishment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Principals</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teachers</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Emotional Disabilities</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Mild Intellectual Disabilities</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Reading Recovery</td>
<td>0.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support Teacher Learning Assistance</td>
<td>1.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher of ESL</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Counsellor</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff</td>
<td>2.622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>28.222</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The National Education Agreement requires schools to report on Indigenous composition of their workforce.

At Dubbo Public School we have three Indigenous teachers and an Aboriginal Education Officer.

**Teacher qualifications**

All teaching staff meet the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>% of staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree or Diploma</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Financial summary**

This summary covers funds for operating costs and does not involve expenditure areas such as permanent salaries, building and major maintenance.

- **Date of financial summary**: 30/11/2012
- **Income**
  - Balance brought forward: $332,845.32
  - Global funds: $314,093.22
  - Tied funds: $301,807.51
  - School & community sources: $132,690.35
  - Interest: $14,536.71
  - Trust receipts: $17,417.10
  - Canteen: $0.00
  - **Total income**: $780,544.89
- **Expenditure**
  - Teaching & learning
    - Key learning areas: $23,929.10
    - Excursions: $60,412.05
    - Extracurricular dissections: $85,866.04
  - Library: $8,412.07
  - Training & development: $1,538.95
  - Tied funds: $266,777.77
  - Casual relief teachers: $58,448.05
  - Administration & office: $127,630.19
  - School-operated canteen: $0.00
  - Utilities: $78,744.93
  - Maintenance: $34,329.46
  - Trust accounts: $38,025.52
  - Capital programs: $0.00
  - **Total expenditure**: $784,114.13
  - **Balance carried forward**: $329,276.08

A full copy of the school’s 2012 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meeting of the parent body. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

**School performance 2012**

During 2012 the students of Dubbo Public School performed in and attended a wide variety of cultural and sporting events.

**Achievements**

**Arts**

In 2012:

- A group of 16 Stage 2 and 3 students played their recorders at the Sydney Opera House in the Festival of Instrumental Music.
- Students entered their artwork in the Western region art competition iVisualise. More than 50 students had their art work displayed in the Western Plains Cultural Centre.
- Well known children’s author Libby Gleeson visited Dubbo Public School to talk to the students about writing. Libby was a student at Dubbo Public School many years ago and was a school captain.
- At the City of Dubbo Eisteddfod the Stage 3 Recorder Group was awarded first place and Stage 1 second place.
- At the Wellington Eisteddfod Stage 3 was awarded first place and Stage 1 second place. Stage 2 was highly commended.
- Our Senior Girls Dance Group performed in the Schools Spectacular at the Sydney Entertainment Centre.
- At the Wellington Eisteddfod the School Band was awarded first place.
- Students regularly attended the Western Plains Cultural Centre to view exhibits such as
the 2012 Archibald Prize winners and Art Express.

- The highlight of the year was our school concert in the Dubbo Regional Theatre and Convention Centre. Each class presented an item and the children loved performing to a packed theatre.

**Sport**

Dubbo Public School has a proud sporting history.

- Dubbo Public School is a member of the Dubbo PSSA and we compete in regular competitions amongst the Dubbo schools.

- Dubbo Public School entered 12 Primary School Sports Association (PSSA) State knockout competitions.

- As a member of the Dubbo PSSA, we also compete in swimming, cross country and athletics carnivals.

- Several students were selected to represent Dubbo District at the Western Area carnival while one student was selected to represent Western Area at the State swimming carnival.

**Gifted and Talented**

2012 saw the continuation of the MICEE (Motivate, Inspire, Challenge, Enrich and Engage) program. This program was conducted over day blocks with over 20 students from Stage 2 and 3 participating in challenging and motivating activities including the construction of social games to improve social skills. Students also participated in the Science and Engineering Challenge, Art Gallery Workshops, Western and Premiers Debating, ICAS competitions and Technology days at eiTeach. These activities are complemented by enrichment and curriculum differentiation activities within the classroom.

**Other**

- Ten students gained valuable experience when they participated in the Western and Premier’s Debating Challenges.

- Twenty Stage 2 and 3 students took part in the Multicultural Perspectives public speaking competition. Two students from each Stage were selected to represent the school at the Mudgee public speaking competition and one student was highly commended.

**Academic**

In the National Assessment Program, the results across the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 literacy and numeracy assessments are reported on a scale from Band 1 to Band 10.

The achievement scale represents increasing levels of skills and understandings demonstrated in these assessments.

Yr 3: from Band 1 (lowest) to Band 6 (highest for Year 3)

Yr 5: from Band 3 (lowest) to Band 8 (highest for Year 5)

Yr 7: from Band 4 (lowest) to Band 9 (highest for Year 7)

Yr 9: from Band 5 (lowest) to Band 10 (highest for Year 9)
Literacy – NAPLAN Year 3

In 2012 Reading there was a 7.3% increase from 2011 in the number of Year 3 students achieving the top band of 6.

In Reading the Year 3 students were 2.2% points higher than the National average in Band 6.

Spelling will continue to be a focus area in 2013.

There was a 2% increase in the number of students achieving in band 6 in Grammar and Punctuation.
In Numeracy the school result was equivalent to the National average in Band 5.
In Data, Measurement and Space in Year 3 there was a 2.5% increase from 2011 in the number of Year 3 students achieving in the top two bands of 5 and 6.
In Number, Patterns and Algebra in Year 3 there was a 3% increase from 2011 in the number of students achieving in the top 2 bands of 5 and 6.

In 2012 Reading there was a 10.2% increase from 2011 in the number of Year 5 students achieving in the top two bands of 7 and 8.

In 2012 Spelling there was a 10.9% increase from 2011 in the number of Year 5 students achieving in the top two bands of 7 and 8.

In 2012 Grammar and Punctuation there was a 6% increase from 2011 in the number of Year 5 students in the top band of 8.
In 2012 Numeracy there was a 5.7% increase from 2011 in the number of Year 5 students achieving in the top band of 8.

In 2012 Data, Measurement, Space and Geometry there was a 3.9% increase from 2011 in the number of Year 5 students achieving the top band of 8.

In 2012 Number, Patterns and Algebra there was a 7.6% increase from 2011 in the number of Year 5 students achieving in the top band of 8.

The My School website provides detailed information and data for national literacy and numeracy testing (NAPLAN).

Click on the link http://www.myschool.edu.au and enter the school name in the Find a school and select GO.

Progress in reading

The progress made by students between year 3 and year 5 over the last two years was outstanding and greater than of the state or similar schools average.

Progress in numeracy

The average growth in Numeracy was not as good as in Literacy and Numeracy will be our focus during the next year.

Minimum standards

The Commonwealth Government sets minimum standards for reading, writing, grammar and punctuation, spelling and numeracy for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

The percentage of our students achieving at or above these standards are reported below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Year 3 students achieving at or above minimum standard (exempt students excluded)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Year 5 students achieving at or above minimum standard (exempt students included)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Significant programs and initiatives

Aboriginal education
Dubbo Public School has 59 Aboriginal students making up 12% of all students.

NAIDOC Day (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) was celebrated across the school in peer groups. The activities included headband printing, stories and artifacts, beading, face painting, dance and games.

Multicultural education
Students from multicultural backgrounds make up less than 2% of our total enrolment. Each year students with limited English are supported through the ESL (English as a Second Language) program.

Other programs
- Almost 25% of students completed the Premier’s Reading Challenge.
- In Book Week the National Year of Reading was celebrated with a focus on the enjoyment of reading. Students at Dubbo Public School participated by dressing up as book characters.
- The school held a reading hour with students, teachers and parents sharing their favourite books.
- The school community and students supported a Book Fair and money was raised to purchase valuable resources for the school library.
- All students have the opportunity to purchase literacy resources through the Scholastic Book Club.
- In 2012 a daily Buddy Reading program was implemented. This program supports students in Year 1 to practice and develop their reading skills. The senior tutors provide encouragement and gain satisfaction through helping other students.

Respect and Responsibility
‘Safe, respectful learners’ is embedded in the school culture across K-6. Our schools wide expectations for safe, respectful learners have been a strong foundation for respect and responsibility in 2012. Students are quick to identify core values and staff members are able to encourage and reward appropriate behaviours. Our Stage 3 students have been helpful Kinder Buddies and Peer Support leaders.

Several Stage 3 students trained as Peer Mediators and they will be able to actively support their peers to resolve issues.

Life Education
All students attended the Life Education program. This year, they investigated the various dimensions of health including physical, social, emotional and environmental. Students explored healthy food choices, body workings, environmental health issues, medicine safety and the consequences of alcohol abuse.

Connected Learning
The video conference facility was widely used for professional learning and links to key professionals in the education, welfare and health sectors.

Stage 1 participated in a two video conferences. The Ages of the Dinosaur was presented by the Australian Museum. Students interacted with palaeontologists and learnt important facts about Australian dinosaurs. The interactive workshop The Bunyips Christmas allowed students to participate in drama, visual arts and dance activities based on the book Bunyips Christmas by Jackie French.
Safety Day

The students, parents and staff of Dubbo Public School believe that the safety of our students is of prime importance at school and beyond the school gate. This year the teachers and representatives from the Dubbo community joined together to talk to students about being safe. Cyber safety has been included as the use of technology develops. The involvement of the fire brigade, police, bus services, WIRES and local council were instrumental in teaching skills and alerting students to the importance of always being safe, respectful learners.

Circus

The school circus program enhances playground opportunities. As students become trained in skills such as unicycles, diablos and juggling they are able to mentor their peers.

Progress on 2012 targets

Target 1

To increase the percentage of Year 3 students in Band 6 in Writing from 9% in 2011 to 18% an increase of 4 students.

2012 strategies to achieve this outcome include:

- Use of whole school development days, staff and stage meetings to ensure consistency in teaching the elements of exposition.
- Use of technology to support the teaching of writing. Purchase of class sets of netbooks to increase access to technology.
- Analysis of NAPLAN data to determine strengths and weaknesses to modify existing programs.
- Development of knowledge of the new National Curriculum.

Our achievements include:

- An increase of 7% in the number of Year 3 students achieving in the top band 6.
- A 7% decrease from 2011 in the number of Year 3 students in lowest Band of 1 in Writing.
- A 2% increase in the number of students who achieved in the top band 6 in Grammar and Punctuation.
- The school has purchased a second classroom set of netbooks.

Target 2

To increase the percentage of Year 5 students in Bands 7 and 8 in Numeracy from 16% to 29% in line with the National average – an increase of 13% or 6 students.

2012 strategies to achieve this outcome include:

- Working with other schools in the Dubbo SEG to introduce Maths Matters.
- Upskilling staff in TEN (Teaching Early Numeracy).
- Developing the staff knowledge and use of the Numeracy Continuum.
- The development of a K-6 Mathematics Scope and Sequence – Continuum.
- Auditing current Maths resources and purchase resources as needed.
Our achievements include:

- Stage 2 and 3 teachers completing training in Maths Matters. These staff have in-serviced other staff on Maths Matters at staff development days and staff meetings.
- K-2 staff members are using TEN data to modify and develop programs that address the current needs of the students.
- Staff members using the Numeracy Continuum to develop an understanding of student knowledge and progress.
- New resources have been purchased to complement existing resources.

**Target 3**  
**To increase the opportunities of staff and students to attend professional leadership**

**2012 strategies to achieve this outcome include:**

- Staff participation in Leadership Professional Learning opportunities provided by Western NSW Region.
- Students Representative Council to attend the Impact Leadership Conference.
- Students participating in Peer Support activities, Peer Support and Mediation training.
- Members of the executive to attend Professional Leadership including the Primary Principals’ Conference.
- Opportunities for classroom teachers to take on leadership positions.

Our achievements included:

- All staff members developed Professional Learning Plans and were able to attend prioritised professional development.
- SRC students attended the Impact Leadership Conference and found this valuable.
- Stage 3 students attended Peer Support training and led Peer Support lessons for K-4 students. Stage 3 students supported K-4 students in school based events and activities including NAIDOC Day, Grandparents Day and the Kinder Buddy program. Several students are trained as Peer Mediators.
- Executives attended Professional Leadership including Primary Principals’ Conference.
- Several classroom teachers and executives have held relieving leadership positions throughout 2012.

**School evaluations**

NSW public schools conduct evaluation to support the effective implementation of the school plan. In 2012 our school carried out evaluation of CAPA (Creative and Practical Arts) and the Culture of the School.

**Curriculum - CAPA**

Background

The staff of Dubbo Public School has worked hard to develop diverse and creative opportunities for all students. Many of the staff, students and local community have specialised talents. Our students engage in rich programs focused on the development of creativity and individuality.

Findings and conclusions

- Parents viewed CAPA as an important part of the curriculum and listed benefits such as learning from others, development of creativity and individuality, success, acquisition of new skills and possible future career choices.
- Parents commented on the social benefits where children develop the discipline required to work together to learn dance routines or playing a musical instrument. Imagination and self-expression were highlighted as significant components of this key learning area.
- Parents commented on the diverse range of activities available to students at Dubbo Public School and the opportunities these provided for their children. These included the band, choir, recorder, dance and the participation in the whole school concert, the eisteddfods, the Schools Spectacular and The Festival of Music in Sydney.
- Staff nominated the benefits of integrating CAPA across all key learning areas to consolidate learning.
- Staff nominated the benefits of incorporating technology such as digital image manipulation, photography and movie making into the CAPA programs.
- Staff saw CAPA as enhancing confidence, self-esteem and problem solving skills through engagement and achievement.
- Students saw CAPA as an opportunity to express themselves in a less structured environment and a possible future career opportunity.
Future Directions

- Dubbo Public School will continue to develop existing diverse and rich CAPA programs. Regular learning experiences that will contribute to the development of the child as a whole will be provided. These will be thoughtfully planned, sequenced and integrated to develop students’ knowledge and understanding of all art forms.
- There will be an emphasis on technology and staff will be given further opportunities through professional development to learn new skills to teach technology rich CAPA lessons.
- The expertise and experience of staff will be utilised along with the skills that can be found in the local and wider community.

School Culture evaluation

In 2012 the school sought the opinions of parents and staff regarding the school culture and how it impacts on the teaching learning outcomes of students.

- Parents identified the need to develop programs that cater to all cultures and the need for students to develop an understanding of other cultures due to the global society in which students now live.
- Parents identified the safe, respectful and encouraging culture of the school along with the welcoming and professional staff.
- Parents identified the time constraints of working parents to become fully involved in school based activities throughout the working day.
- Some parents identified emails as an improved way to receive newsletters and to communicate with teachers.
- Teachers identified the positive and diverse school culture and the prospects for professional growth provided through school based and professional learning opportunities.

Future Directions

- The school will continue to communicate with parents in a variety of ways including the school newsletter, notices, the enhanced school website, assemblies and through formal reporting and conferences.
- Staff members are currently sharing knowledge of the more diverse cultures within the school and will be encouraged to utilise the knowledge of these families to develop student understandings of other cultures.

Professional learning

The staff members of Dubbo Public School have developed professional learning plans which incorporate nominated professional learning activities that will assist them improve the learning outcomes of their students. Some of the professional development for 2012 included:

- eiTeach – Moodle, blog and game training development.
- Beginning Teachers Accreditation
- Best Start
- PBL Tier Two
- L3 - Language, Learning and Literacy
- Impact Leadership
- Sentral Seminar
- ICT Conference
- Primary Principals’ Conference - Motion Leadership

About this report

In preparing this report, the self-evaluation committee has gathered information from evaluations conducted during the year and analysed other information about the school’s practices and student learning outcomes. The self-evaluation committee and school planning committee have determined targets for the school’s future development.

Greg Shortis Principal
Heather Thompson Assistant Principal
Cathi Davis SAM
Rachael Sinclair P&C President

School contact information

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Email: dubbo-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
School Code: 1775

Parents can find out more information about Annual School Reports, how to interpret information in the reports and have the opportunity to provide feedback about these reports at:

Web: www.dubbo-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/as